



**TESTIMONY TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON RAISED BILL S.B. 948, AN ACT ADDRESSING  
EDUCATION FUNDING AND RACIAL EQUITY**

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is James Boursiquot, and I'm from 83 Indian Field Road, Bridgeport, CT. I'm asking you to support S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut .

Right now, our state's education funding system is racist and classist. We spend more on educating affluent white children than low-income children and children of color. Then we spend even more to police, prosecute, and incarcerate those who are failed by our education system. I'm asking you to help make Connecticut a more just and equitable place to live.

Learning that Connecticut spends \$640 million more on majority-white districts is upsetting but expected because of the history of this country, knowing how one group got a head-start. It is evident when you see black boys with a 3rd education in the eighth grade. We understand that education would save everyone and will level the playing field; that when people don't what they should know, they end up in the same cycle.

When I think of my daughter's future, I want to send her to Bridgeport school because I am the product of those schools. I don't want to send her to Trumbull or Fairfield. She is why I speak today. You can attend schools in our city and be successful. However, I can't even imagine how much more amazing she will be if she were to get an education that looks like those in our surrounding towns.

Our students need a better learning environment. There are buildings with classrooms that are overly cold or hot that have windows you can barely see the sun through and classrooms that still have chalkboards instead of SMART boards. Our schools are behind in technology and resources. Even the food provided isn't adequate and leaves the students uninterested in learning. Without proper resources, our schools are like a overpriced daycare that eventually leads to the school to prison pipeline. We need to give them more extracurriculars, more activities, more opportunities to grow physically and mentally. We need to be able to fund for more trades learning in earlier grades like cooking and woodworking, we need to fund so we can teach them that there are more options in life.

Please vote "Yes" on S.B. 948 and support its passage in the General Assembly so that our state's budget reflects the values of justice and equity in education.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership on this issue.

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